

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF FONMINISTER SWITCH

1. TURKISH PRESS HAS SPECULATED ON THE PROSPECT THAT FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL MIGHT RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, REPLACING TEKIN ARIBURUN, WHOSE TWO-YEAR TERM ENDS WITH THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 1. MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO CAGLAYANGIL ARE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU AND SENATOR KAMURAN INAN.

2. COMMENT: IT HAS LONG BEEN SAID OF CAGLAYANGIL THAT HE DESIRED THIS PRESTIGIOUS POSITION, WHICH COULD HELP PUT HIM IN THE RUNNING TO SUCCEED KORUTURK AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN 1980. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, IT IS BEING SAID WITHIN THE MINISTRY THAT CAGLAYANGIL, AT 69, FINDS HIS PRESENT JOB TOO TIRING AND WOULD LIKE A CHANGE. HOWEVER, IF CAGLAYANGIL SEEKS THE SENATE PRESIDENCY, THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE OBSTACLES: (1) ARIBURUN MIGHT SEEK REELECTION; AND (2) CAGLAYANGIL MIGHT RUN INTO HEAVY COMPETITION, INCLUDING SUPPORTERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX MENDERES-ERA DEMOCRATS WHO JOINED THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND WERE ELECTED ON

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OCTOBER 12. FOREMOST AMONG THE OLD DEMOCRATS IS SITKI YIRCALI, THREE-

TIME CABINET MINISTER UNDER MENDERES, WHO MIGHT COMMAND
CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM WITHIN JP RANKS.

3. BOTH FEYZIOGLU AND INAN HAVE EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS FOR THE
POST. REPORTEDLY, FEYZIOGLU WOULD MERGE THE RR INTO THE
JP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND THEN AS A REWARD WOULD BE MADE
FONMIN OR SEC GEN OF THE JP.
MACOMBER

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